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Reserve

MOBILIZING HELP TO SAVE CROPS



Emergency Farm Labor Program 1943 Results . . . 1944 Needs

War Food Administration

U.S. Department of Agriculture

EXTENSION SERVICE

JUL 4 1944

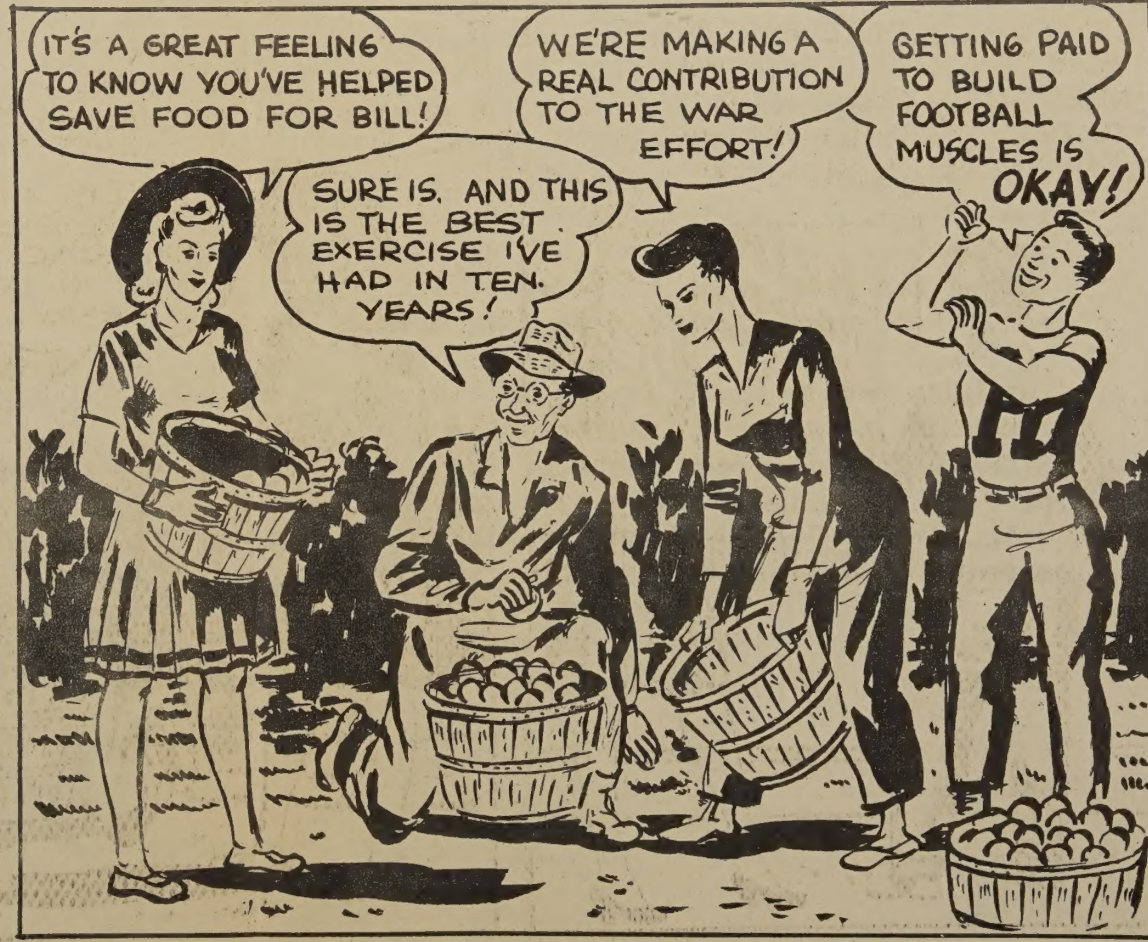
John gets his tomatoes picked ...

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by Howard Chapman



THE COUNTY AGENT MOBILIZES THE COMMUNITY



1943 RESULTS

Food production in 1943 surpassed all previous records. But still there were no serious crop losses due to shortage of harvest labor.

Two reasons stand out: Farmers and their families worked harder; several million nonfarm people answered the call to help save crops.

The emergency farm labor program of the War Food Administration and the Cooperative State Agricultural Extension Services helped.

Through 11,881 county and community placement centers -- many of which were operated by volunteer workers -- farmers made their labor needs known. County agents report that 4,299,583 job placements were made on 692,852 farms.

This represents 2,100,000 individual workers, including 700,000 youth, 350,000 women, and 66,000 Mexicans, Jamaicans, and Bahamans.

In 3,000 counties, farm labor advisory committees aided the county agricultural agent with the recruitment and placement of farm workers. In rural neighborhoods, 200,000 volunteer leaders helped solve local labor problems. In cities and villages, 5,000 committees mobilized labor for farms.

A million farmers were assisted in better utilization and exchange of labor and farm machinery.

The whole story is one of rural-urban cooperation.

That is how farm labor needs were met in 1943.

1944 NEEDS

Progress of the war continues to drain manpower from the farms. Even more emergency farm labor will be required to insure a continuous food supply.

At least 4,000,000 workers are needed in 1944 to supplement the efforts of the regular farm labor force composed of farmers, their families, and hired hands.

A large number of workers from foreign countries are being imported. But this and other unusual sources will supply only about 200,000 workers.

The remaining 3,800,000 must be mobilized in the local communities. Men and women, boys and girls from all walks of life will be needed in practically every part of the country at some time during the season.

Of the 4,000,000 emergency workers needed, about 1,200,000 will be teen-age youth from the towns and cities. Another 800,000 will be women -- stenographers, store clerks, school teachers, college girls, housewives. In addition, many business and professional men will spend half-days, week ends, or 2-week vacations in farm work.

The county agent cannot do the recruitment, placement, and training job alone. The emergency requires the aid of local farm labor advisory committees, neighborhood leaders, schools, churches, service clubs, defense councils, youth organizations, women's clubs, civic organizations, newspapers, radio stations, and Federal, State and local agencies.

Rural-urban teamwork got results in 1943!

It can do the bigger job in 1944!